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ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED,
DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

Coordinated approach by the United Nations system on
questions relating to South Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

ANNEX

I. UNITED NATIONS

B. United Nations programmes and other bodies

11. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Government of South Africa on 4 September 1991 led to a declaration by the Government of a general amnesty benefiting all South African refugees and political exiles. In accordance with its terms, procedures and formalities for readmission, reception and reintegration of returnees were set up and by the end of May 1993 10,957 South African refugees and exiles had registered for voluntary repatriation. Of those registered, the Government had cleared a total of 10,730 by the end of May 1993 and 6,604 had returned to South Africa under UNHCR auspices. Reintegration assistance in the form of cash grants has been provided to returnees, including those who had arrived prior to the establishment of a UNHCR presence. The provision of repatriation assistance is continuing and returnees holding cleared voluntary repatriation application forms are being transported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM, funded by UNHCR, also provides reintegration assistance cash grants to returnees upon arrival.

2. The terms have been extended through September 1993. Students overseas who are expected to complete their cycles of study may return over the coming two

years. A certain reluctance to repatriate may be due to the prevailing economic recession and unstable political situation, the violence in the townships and the arrest and detention of some returnees. UNHCR, with the support of the local representatives of donor Governments, continues to monitor the situation of returnees, many of whom have suffered harassment, detention and the adverse effects of the violence in the townships.

3. The international donor community contributed \$27,059,479 through UNHCR to finance the South African repatriation and reintegration operation. In addition, individual donors were asked to provide supplementary funding for small-scale pilot projects supported by UNHCR to develop income-generation and training programmes for returnees.

4. The Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission in South Africa continues to discuss with the Government of South Africa the possibility of UNHCR regularizing its presence in the country in order to provide protection and assistance to Mozambican and other refugees. UNHCR's possible involvement in the voluntary repatriation of Mozambican refugees is also under discussion. It is hoped that the first multiracial and democratic elections planned for April 1994 will render possible greater UNHCR involvement with all refugees and returnees inside South Africa, including Mozambicans.
